

mother of the best birds sold in the room, at high amateur prices, went for a very small sum, and less than half she cost me; I recommended her to a friend and pointed out what she had done, he shrugged his shoulders and replied, "it might be so, but she had not stuff enough for him." The same thing happened at Toronto; I strongly recommended a pair to a gentleman fancier, but he did not act on my recommendation; this same pair, by a mistake of the auctioneer, were bought in at \$10, luckily for me,—for they are the best breeders I have, and throw the best stock, every bird better than themselves. This is a practical illustration of breeding from blood, and known pedigree, combined with judicious crossing.

Pedigree! some will say, how kept? In this way;—you put a number or name on each pair and date of birth—and also a mark, usually small India rubber rings on their legs, 1, 2, or 3,—or 1 on one leg, 1 on the other, 2 on one, &c., in any combinations you choose. You have a book with particulars of each pair and printed thus:—The number of the pair at top of page, with description of cock and hen, noting the color and age—and also the private mark underneath. In a ruled heading is put in separate columns | Hatched. | | No. | Description. | When disposed of. | How disposed of. | Price. | Remarks. | And also I have a card on each pen with date of laying first egg—when due—and remarks. This enables me on the inspection visits to note these facts, if pushed for time; they can be transcribed into the book afterwards. Well; at the end of the season I can tell you exactly how the birds are bred, and all particulars, and any bird having anything remarkable about him is identified at any time, and thus you discover how to breed out birds that do not throw as good stock as others, besides in matching up, you know exactly what

you are doing, and should by attention eventually lead to the top of the tree. Some will say this is troublesome, so it is, but not so much so as you think, and if you don't take trouble in breeding carriers you had better let them alone. I said not so much trouble as supposed, for if you refer to years—you begin your markings fresh each year—thus—merely noting that No. C. pair was bred from No. A. of such a year, and on reference to that pair you see whence they came, and so on. I do not know if others do this, but I do, and can give you the history of most of my birds to 1864, the time I began again in Canada. If I could get sufficient subscribers I would publish a Diary for Poultry and Pigeon breeding, or would give the form to any of your subscribers who would send me a yearly copy for my own use. It would pay well in Canada.

Well, having obtained your stock birds you must place them in a proper loft, room, or other suitable accommodation, fitted up with boxes as in your number 11, Vol. I., Page 164—they might possibly be a little smaller, but I do not recommend that. The loft should have a large wire aviary in front, if you do not fly your birds, and few of the best fancy carriers are flown; but if permanently located, there can be no doubt that the birds flown are more healthy—but even then I do not recommend their being always at large—so that a large wire aviary in front of the pigeon loft is necessary, so that the birds may fly about in it during the day. I do not advocate too many being kept. We all have a tendency to over-stock, it's a mistake, you get more good birds from a few good pairs.

Carriers as a rule breed and rear their own young well. This is an advantage, but it is handy to have a few kept as flyers, such as homing birds, Dragoons, &c., to which you can shift eggs or a delicate young one, and if left to fly